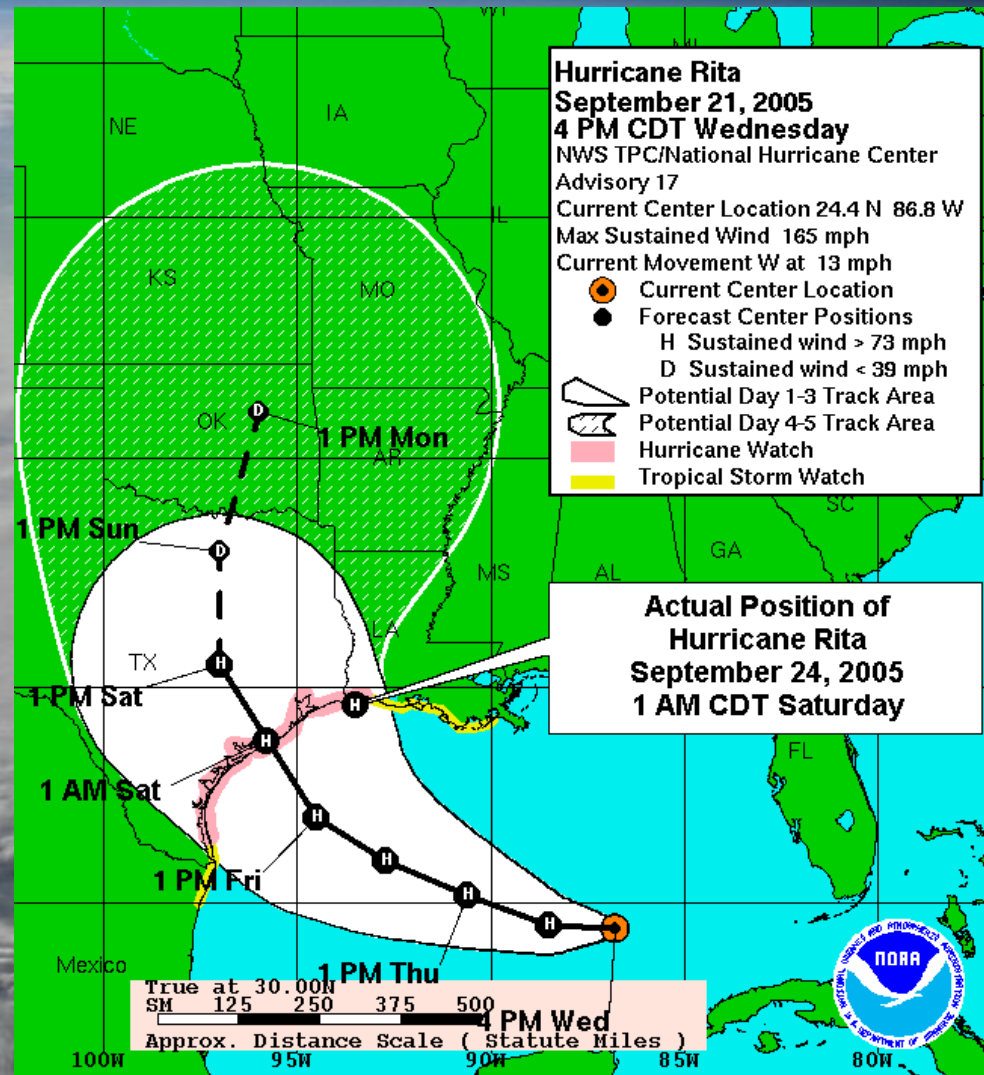


# ***Understanding the Forecast***

## ***Don't Focus on the Skinny Black Line!!!***

In the figure to the right, the “skinny black line” represents the forecast track of highest confidence. However, one must not just focus on the skinny black line, but rather focus on the potential area the hurricane could affect, as illustrated by the white and hatched areas around the forecast track. This area, known as the “cone of uncertainty,” represents the average track errors during the last five years. Fortunately, track forecasting has improved over the last several decades. Unfortunately, intensity forecasting has not shown much increase in accuracy over the same time period.





# ***Understanding the Forecast***

Additional information can be found on our Tropical page:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lch/?n=tropic>

## ***Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Guide***

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/lch/tropical/LCHHurricaneGuide-SWLA.pdf>

## ***Southeast Texas Hurricane Guide***

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/lch/tropical/LCHHurricaneGuide-SETX.pdf>



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